

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claim 1. (previously presented) A method of determining the presence and amount of beryllium or a beryllium compound in a sample, comprising:

admixing a sample suspected of containing beryllium or a beryllium compound with a dissolution solution for sufficient time whereby beryllium or a beryllium compound within said sample is dissolved;

mixing a portion from said admixture with an amino acid buffered solution containing a fluorescent indicator capable of binding beryllium or a beryllium compound to the fluorescent indicator; and,

determining the presence or amount of beryllium or a beryllium compound within said sample by measuring fluorescence from said fluorescent indicator.

Claim 2. (original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the dissolution solution is an ammonium bifluoride solution.

Claim 3. (original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the fluorescent indicator forms a six-member ring with beryllium or a beryllium compound.

Claim 4. (original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the fluorescent indicator is 10-hydroxybenzo[*h*]quinoline-7-sulfonate.

Claim 5. (previously presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein the buffered solution includes a metal chelating agent.

Claim 6. (original) The method of Claim 5, wherein the metal chelating agent is EDTA or a salt of EDTA.

Claim 7. (previously presented) A method of determining the presence and amount of beryllium or a beryllium compound in a sample, comprising:

admixing a sample suspected of containing beryllium or a beryllium compound with a dissolution solution for sufficient time whereby beryllium or a beryllium compound within said sample is dissolved;

mixing a portion from said admixture with a buffered solution containing (a) a fluorescent indicator of 10-hydroxybenzo[*h*]quinoline-7-sulfonate capable of binding beryllium or a beryllium compound to the fluorescent indicator and (b) lysine; and,

determining the presence or amount of beryllium or a beryllium compound within said sample by measuring fluorescence from said fluorescent indicator.

Claim 8. (currently amended) A method of determining the presence and amount of beryllium or a beryllium compound in a sample, comprising:

admixing a sample suspected of containing beryllium or a beryllium compound with a dissolution solution for sufficient time whereby beryllium or a beryllium compound within said sample is dissolved;

mixing a portion from said admixture with a buffered solution containing (a) a fluorescent indicator of 10-hydroxybenzo[*h*]quinoline-7-sulfonate ~~of 10-hydroxybenzo[*h*]quinoline-7-sulfonate~~ capable of binding beryllium or a beryllium compound to the fluorescent indicator, (b) a metal chelating agent and (c) lysine; and,

determining the presence or amount of beryllium or a beryllium compound within said sample by measuring fluorescence from said fluorescent indicator.

Claim 9. (previously presented) A composition of matter comprising an aqueous solution including 10-hydroxybenzo[*h*]quinoline-7-sulfonate and an amino acid buffer with a pK_a between 7 and 13.5.

Claim 10. (original) The composition of matter of claim 9 further comprising a metal chelating agent.

Claim 11. (original) The composition of matter of claim 10 wherein the metal chelating agent is EDTA or a salt of EDTA.

Claim 12. (cancelled) The composition of matter of claim 9 wherein said buffer is an amine buffer.

Claim 13. (previously presented) A composition of matter comprising an aqueous solution including 10-hydroxybenzo[*h*]quinoline-7-sulfonate and an amine buffer with a pK_a between 7 and 13.5 wherein said amine buffer is lysine.

Claim 14. (cancelled)

Claim 15. (previously presented) A composition of matter comprising an aqueous solution including 10-hydroxybenzo[*h*]quinoline-7-sulfonate, a metal chelating agent and an amine buffer with a pK_a between 7 and 13.5 wherein said amine buffer is lysine.

Claims 16-21. (cancelled)